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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

Attention \_ Keep this study together December 10, 1969

Dear Russ:

S/S 18239

Thank you for your letter of November 17. I would like to reassure you that we are giving the fullest support to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment scheduled to be held in Stockholm in 1972. The attitude of our Government was reflected in President Nixon's address to the 24th UN General Assembly on September 18, 1969. The President then pledged our "strongest support" for the Conference. We have instructed our delegation to give the most vigorous support to this UN initiative, and a favorable resolution was recently approved unanimously by the Second UNGA Committee considering this matter.

As concerns the Conference budget, I understand that at the 47th Session of the ECOSOC held in Geneva last summer some 26 representatives agreed that the estimated budget for the Conference should be cut back. Both the ECOSOC resolution and the resolution approved by the Second UNGA Committee request the Secretary General of the UN "to make all efforts to reduce the costs of the Conference."

I can assure you that we will continue to support the UN Conference on the Human Environment. We intend to participate vigorously in the Preparatory Committee, which is now being formed.

With warm regard,

Sincerely,

Elliot L. Richardson

The Honorable,

Russell E. Train,

Under Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED Authority, NND969000 By JEL NARA Date 1/2

SC161-3

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Redrafted in S/S-S:MLevitsky:gp 12/8/69 MICROFILMED BY S/S: CMS

**DECLASSIFIED** PA/HO, Department of State **E.O.** 12958, as amended June 22, 2004